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SEPTEMBER 3.

The President, Dr. RUSCHENBERGER, in the chair.

Twenty-one persons present.

On the Black Mildew of Walls.—Prof. LEIDY remarked that in the number of "Hardwicke's Science Gossip" for August, presented this evening, there is an article by Prof. Paley entitled "Is the Blackness on St. Paul's merely the effect of Smoke." According to the author, the blackness is mainly due to the growth of a hitherto undescribed lichen, which appears to flourish only on limestone and in situations unaffected by the direct rays of the sun. Prof. Leidy continued, that his attention had been called a number of years ago to a similar black appearance on the brick walls and granite work of houses in narrow shaded streets, especially in the vicinity of the Delaware River. Noticing a similar blackness on the bricks above the windows of a brewery, from which there was a constant escape of watery vapor, in a more central portion of the city, he was led to suspect that it was of a vegetable nature. On examination, the black mildew proved to be an alga, closely allied to what he supposed to be the *Protococcus viridis*, which gives the bright green color to the trunks of trees, fences, and walls, mostly on the more shaded and northern side, everywhere in our vicinity. It probably may be the same plant in a different state, but, until proved to be so, may be distinguished by the name of *Protococcus lugubris.* It consists of minute round or oval cells, from 0.006 to 0.009 mm. in diameter, isolated or in pairs or in groups of four, the result of division; or it occurs in short irregular chains of four or more cells up to a dozen, occasionally with a lateral offset of two or more cells. The cells by transmitted light appear of a brownish or olive-brownish hue. In mass to the naked eye the alga appears as an intensely black powder.

SEPTEMBER 10.

The President; Dr. RUSCHENBERGER, in the chair.

Nineteen persons present.

The death of Geo. Dawson Coleman, a member, was announced.